

RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES OF Monday, June 17, 2013 MEETING

Board Members Present: Mayor Scott Avedisian, Chairperson; Stephen Durkee; Jerome Williams; Maureen Martin; Margaret Holland Duff; Anna Liebenow and Peter Ginaitt

Absent: Michael Lewis

Also Present: Raymond Studley, CEO; Wayne Hannon, Resource Team; Todd Gleason, Outside Counsel; Marie DiToro; and other members of RIPTA's staff and the Resource Team and members of the public whose names are on the sign-in sheet.

Mayor Avedisian calls the meeting to order and welcomes everyone. He will be changing the order of the Agenda for today's meeting. After Public Comment the Board will convene into Executive Session.

Mayor Avedisian states that he will have to leave the meeting early and Mr. Williams will facilitate the Board Meeting in his absence.

He would like to start the meeting with a moment of silence in memory of Paul Harrington's mother.

Agenda Item 1: **Vote on May 20, 2013 Meeting Minutes**

Mayor Avedisian moves on to the first agenda item, approval of the May 20, 2013 minutes. Mr. Williams made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Mr. Ginaitt seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes of the meeting as presented was unanimously approved.

Agenda Item 2: **Vote on June 7, 2013 Special Meeting Minutes**

Mayor Avedisian moves on to the second agenda item, approval of the June 7, 2013 Special Board Meeting minutes. Ms. Martin made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Mr. Ginaitt seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes of the meeting as presented was unanimously approved.

Mayor Avedisian states that they will take Public Comment and then go into Executive Session.

Agenda Item 3: Public Comment

Ms. Johnston would like to introduce to the Board Mr. Eric St. Peters from the RI Blood Center. Mr. St. Peters would like to thank everyone at RIPTA for a great relationship RIPTA has with the blood center. He stated that there has been Blood Drives at RIPTA for 15 years. RI Blood Center is required to provide 280 pints of blood to hospitals in RI a day to sustain the need of our residents in Rhode Island. The number one reason people do not donate blood is because people believe that they have not been asked. Mr. St. Peters is asking the people in charge at RIPTA to ask the employees to come out and donate blood. The next drive will be this Friday, June 21, 2013 from 7:30 am-10:30 am on Elmwood Ave with the Blood Mobile outside. Please give the gift of life and donate. Thank you for your time.

Mr. Harrington would like to thank the Mayor for recognizing his mother and for the moment of silence. He would also like to thank the Board and RIPTA Management who have expressed their condolences to him.

Agenda Item 4: CEO Report

Mr. Studley states that the total expenses for the year are down \$2.9 million, however our revenue is down as well due to the Gas Tax. Mayor Avedisian states it is encouraging to see the expenses down to where they are. Mr. Studley commends the staff in controlling the expenses.

Mayor Avedisian moves on to the ATMS update. Mr. Laflamme states that since the last Board meeting they have received new AVA files and have downloaded it to three test buses last week. He does not have the test results back as of yet. Mr. Laflamme states that they have never achieved the five bus installs a night. Mayor Avedisian asked how many buses a night are they completing and Mr. Laflamme stated 3-4 a night.

2013 buses scheduled to be installed tonight. New Dispatch Center's window has been installed and the room is painted. The next step is to get furniture in there, install radio console and dispatch centers and should have this up and running in the next four weeks. They are also looking to install HPD in additional vehicles.

The new announcements have the female voice, corrected pronunciation and timing. Changes to routes can be handled internally to change the announcements.

The plans for the next four weeks are to continue with fleet installs, continue to work on new dispatch center, continue testing customer information signs at Kennedy Plaza and the second round of training is planned for July.

Ms. Liebenow asked how long till the announcements are on all the buses and Mr. Laflamme states he hopes soon it all depends on the results of the testing. Ultimately, he hopes to have all routes done by the end of the summer.

Mayor Avedisian moves on to the ARRA update. Ms. Neira states the final payment for the Kennedy Plaza project is in hand and should be processed by the end of June and that would close out line item number four. Line item number five, facility repairs are the two roofing projects. Everything is still on target to complete both roofs by the end of June. The Rapid Bus is still proceeding and hopefully will close out end of June early July. Ms. Neira states they are still on target to close out ARRA by September 30th.

Agenda Item 5: Strategic Planning Subcommittee Report

Mr. Durkee states that at the last meeting they received a report from City of Providence on the phase 3 of the Kennedy Plaza Project. Ms. Pettine states that there was a quick COA and Tiger Application update as well.

Agenda Item 6: Final COA Recommendations for Proposed Service Changes

Ms. Pettine is asking the Board to accept the final COA recommendations. There have been 12 Public Hearings and the meeting minutes are found in the Board packets. There were 137 people in attendance for the Public Hearings. These meetings were in a similar format as the Community Meetings held in March. There was a presentation, time for questions and answers and the offer for the people to be put on record with their suggestions or comments. Ms. Pettine states that Mr. Therrien will go into greater details regarding the specific suggestions they received and how the COA will take these into consideration as they move forward.

Mr. Therrien stated that QDC has reached out to RIPTA because they anticipate in doubling the number of employees and that is an area where the market analysis would not show a market, but if the state will gain that many jobs we will have to accommodate transit service in that area. Mr. Durkee asked if QDC have provided a time frame on this and Mr. Therrien stated that he does not have that information as of yet, however QDC has been very forthcoming on the information and that he will also ask for the locations of all of the employees as well.

Mr. Therrien states that there were not a lot of comments from the Public Hearings; however there were a few areas of concern and one was the 52 Line. He heard information that varies from the data they collected on Bryant College and he wants to look into it, however cannot do this until school resume in September.

He stated that RIPTA is short in the Warwick area and there is a need for more resources. Mr. Therrien stated that Warwick is on their "wish list." There are multiple areas in Warwick that need attention. He stated that RIPTA cannot do what transit should be doing without more resources. Mr. Durkee stresses the importance of knowing the dollar value associated with their wish list items. Mr. Hannon stated that on

a budget side they have asked each department to provide a wish list, or what he calls "white paper." Mr. Durkee stated that is great and also each item should explain how this will enhance the service.

Mr. Therrien explained to Ms. Holland McDuff that the Warwick Mall is building a separate area for the RIPTA buses to line up. They are concerned with having too many buses and want to grow smart.

Mr. Therrien stated that he received a petition with 200 signatures to not get rid of the 35 line; however there are only seven passengers a day on this line. Mr. Therrien explains then there are other lines that need more service and in order to accommodate the need it will have to come from somewhere that does not have the riders.

Mr. Therrien stated they have completed the Title 6 analysis and are in compliance and will be forwarding that to FTA. He also mentioned that they had promised to do an ADA Analysis and they have not mapped it out yet, but will come back to the Board with further discussions on this.

Mr. Therrien stated they want to keep moving forward on this. The pressure is on to begin implementing these changes.

Mr. Ginaitt asked how much consideration has been given to service to hospitals in Rhode Island. Mr. Therrien responded that the emphasis is on people riding and where the most people are riding. There are very little ridership to some hospitals and the COA has decided to take service from some of them.

Mr. Williams states that you need an approval in order to move forward and then can tweak it going forward. He also states that this has been a massive amount of work and it was done right. There are so many good things from this.

Ms. Martin believes that the lack of participation at the Hearings is because the information has been out there and the people were given many opportunities to speak out and be heard prior to these hearings.

Ms. Petra Liebenow did not notice the minutes from the evening of the Pawtucket Public Hearing in the packet. Mr. Therrien stated that it may have been missed in the copying process. Ms. Pettine stated that all minutes and comments were personally reviewed by Mr. Therrien.

Ms. McDuff would like to add her applause to the team and would like to be able to talk in the future about keeping the community in the conversation.

Mr. Durkee makes a motion to accept the COA proposed service changes as presented today. Mr. Ginaitt seconds the motion. The motion is passed by five members of the board and opposed by Ms. Petra Liebenow. The motion is passed by majority vote.

Agenda Item 7: IFB 13-33 Posi Lock Nozzles and Kits

Mr. Mencarini is asking for award of contract to Muncie Transit Supply to supply and deliver POSI/LOCK Nozzles and Tank Retrofit Kits for the Fast-Fuel capability of our fleet. The cost is \$165,999.45. The project is funded under Grant RI 90X061 with a local match of RICAP funds. Mr. Harwood will oversee installation upon approval today and the receipt of the components. Mr. Ginaitt makes a motion to award the contract to Muncie Transit Supply. Mr. Williams seconds the motion and it passes unanimously.

Agenda Item 8: IFB 13-34 Genuine Thermo King Air Conditioning System Parts

Mr. Mencarini is asking for award of contract to Thermo King Northeast to supply and deliver "Genuine" Thermo King Air Conditioning System Parts. They offered the greatest discount to the Authority. The estimated cost of this contract is based upon historical usage which is approximately \$100,000.00. This is a one-year contract with up to four annual renewal options to be exercised solely by the Authority. Mr. Durkee makes a motion to award the bid to Thermo King Northeast. It is seconded by Ms. Holland McDuff and the motion is passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 9: Executive Session to consider, discuss and act upon such matters as may be closed to the public pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2) [work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation] and R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(4) [investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct, either civil or criminal], as may be appropriate.

Mayor Avedisian asked for a motion to convene to Executive Session to consider, discuss and act upon such matters as may be closed to the public pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2) [work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation] and R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(4) [investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct, either civil or criminal], as may be appropriate.

Mr. Williams reads the law to go to executive session and made the motion. Mr. Ginaitt seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken. The motion to adjourn to executive session passed unanimously.

Following the Board's return to open session Mr. Durkee made a motion to seal the minutes of the executive session. Ms. Martin seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 10: Adjournment

Mr. Ginaitt asked if the packets received prior to the meeting can be sent electronically for archive purposes and Mr. Todd Gleason responded that possibly after the meeting it can be, but not prior.

Mr. Williams asks for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Durkee makes a motion to adjourn and Ms. McDuff seconds. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie DiToro
Recording Secretary